

Tipping in America

All gratuities are arbitrary, but we've gathered the wisdom of service industry professionals, hospitality experts and even a surly waiter or two to put together this briefest of tipping guides.

A few things to remember: Service workers generally prefer cash, even if the bill is paid with a credit card; large parties in restaurants will often have their tip included in the bill, so be sure to check; tipping varies significantly by country; and, finally, don't reward rudeness with a full gratuity.

Airport baggage handler: \$1 per bag, more for heavier bags.

Bartender: \$1 to \$2 per drink is customary, or 15 to 20 percent if you run a tab.

Beauty: In a salon, tip 15 to 20 percent for haircuts, nail care, facials, waxing, etc.

Shampooers: \$2 to \$5.

Cabs: For fares less than \$10, \$1 to \$3. If more than \$10, then it is ten percent.

Delivery people: Varies according to what is being delivered. A few dollars should be enough for a small food order, while movers delivering furniture might earn a \$20 to \$30 tip.

Dining: A 15- to 20-percent tip is the going rate for meals, and the tip should be on the pre-tax total.

Dry Cleaner: Tipping generally is not required.

Hotels: At least \$1 or \$2 per bag for the bellhop when you arrive and when you leave, and \$2 to \$3 a night for the hotel maid (just leave the cash daily in your room). If the doorman braves rain and snow to hail a cab for you, a couple of dollars is fair.

Massage therapist: Going rate is 15 percent.

Parking: In daily parking garages, the standard is \$1 for someone who retrieves your car. A valet should be tipped \$2 to \$3.

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